THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS



The President of the Senate
The Speaker of the House of Representatives

SIRS:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Library's fiscal year 2000 financial statements and accompanying opinion of the independent auditors, Clifton Gunderson L.L.C.

On April 24, 2000, the Library was 200 years old. With a theme of "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty," the Library's Bicentennial provided a unique opportunity to feature its collections, its role in American life, and the importance of libraries in a democratic society as providers of free and open access to knowledge and information.

The Library's Bicentennial gift to the nation was an on-line library of more than five million historically significant digital items that are now available free of charge on the Internet to people wherever they live. More than 120 million Americans, as well as an estimated 300 million people worldwide, now have personal Internet access. The new digital communications era offers this unique institution extraordinary opportunities to achieve new levels of service to the Congress for its legislative work and to citizens' search for information and learning in every congressional district.

For the fifth consecutive year, the independent auditors have issued an unqualified "clean" opinion on the Library's Consolidated Financial Statements. The net cost of the Library's seven major programs totals \$467.2 million. The net cost includes \$51.4 million in costs incurred by four other agencies (i.e., Architect of the Capitol, Government Printing Office, Office of Personnel Management and the Department of the Treasury) in support of the Library's programs. The net cost also includes \$89.1 million in earned revenue from copyright registration fees, cataloging distribution sales, and other feebased and reimbursable programs.

The Library continues to improve its financial and management systems while placing great emphasis on ensuring the security of our staff and collections. The implementation of the Library of Congress Integrated Library System is making possible further improvements in the control of our nearly 121 million items. For the first time, the Library is tracking incoming books at the item level, which improves our control over the collections. We recognize that we need to improve further our computer and collections controls as documented in the accountability reports. We are executing corrective measures as part of our strategic planning process.

I am proud of the Library's stewardship of its financial affairs, and I commend the enclosed report to your attention.

Sincerely,

ames H. Billington

The Librarian of Congress

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

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